(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Standing Committee were examined in detail in consultation with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and other authorities concerned. Thereafter, the Cabinet decided on 20 June 2005 to revise the retail prices of petrol and diesel by Rs. 2.50/litre and Rs. 2/litre respectively and to maintain without revision the retail prices of domestic LPG and PDS kerosene. The revision in prices by the Cabinet and the changes by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in customs and excise duties, including structural changes, on crude oil and petrolem products have been effected on the principle of equitable burden sharing and striking a proper balance among the iterests of all stakeholders, including consumers and the Government.

Krishnamurthy Committee Report

184. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Krishnamurthy Committee on Synergy in Energy has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of recommendations given by the Committee for merger of public sector oil companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee have recommended policy and structural changes and also suggested certain management solutions for improved performance of the oil companies in the public sector. Some of the major recommendations are:

1. Merger of Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) may not be advisable for the present.
2. On policy issues there is need for an integrated energy policy setting up of Cabinet Committee on Energy headed by the Prime Minister and setting up of an Energy Ministry. The Committee has also recommended revamping of the existing framework of supervision and overview by various surveillance agencies like Central Vigilance Commission by setting up of pre-investigation

Board with former PSUs Chiefs, Government and Private Sector representatives.

3. For empowering Directorate General of Hydrocarbons as an autonomous body with a separate cadre of experts and access to funds.

4. For overseas ventures, to set up a parallel new entity by Oil India Limited. Intense competition in oversea bidding is to be avoided by fixing up a limit releated to the production capacity of more than 2 million tonnes of oil equivalent for OVL, below which the other new entity would be permitted to bid.

5. Another recommendation of the Committee relates to setting up of a National Shareholding Trust, modeled after Temasek of Singapore and Khazanah of Malaysia, but with a modification. The oil PSUs joining the Trust shall continue to retain their PSU character and the Trust shall function as non-profit Trust set up under the Societies Registration Act or under the companies Act or as a statutory body. The Board of the Trust will comprise eminent personalities from Government, Public Sector and Private Sector. The Committee expects that the greater autonomy to the Trust would ensure synergy in operations.

Transporation of Gas from Myanmar

185. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh has cleared a pipeline through its territory for transporting gas to India from Myanmar where ONGC and GAIL have stakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the transit fee that India has to pay to Bangladesh for allowing the pipeline and transporting gas through their territory?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) While Bangladesh is yet to clear a pipeline through its territory for transporting gas to India from Myanmar, a draft MoU has